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Ground Zero News

March 1994 Volume 2, No. 3

THE TRUTH UNFOLDS

Ground Zero set about in late December and early January to begin to expose the lies and encourage support for efforts by anti-child abuse organizations. The press release (**NAMBLA AND PEDOPHILIA-A MYTH UNDONE**) found in this newsletter was the first step.

This press release was issued after Ground Zero had called some of the major players in Gay and Lesbian Organizations and found that many had already made statements in regard to this subject and many more were considering it. **HRCF**, the **ILGA Secretariat**, the **Log Cabin Republican** and **P-FLAG, Donna Red Wing** and **Peri Jude Radecic** had all issued statements on the national level. Most Colorado groups in addition to Ground Zero already had statement on the books, too.

What we didn't expect was the literal ground swell of support that has arisen. We have just been told that **GLAAD** and the **NGLTF** have approved the drawing of a statement on the subject and condemning NAMBLA. **STONEWALL 25**, that had previously issued a statement opposing NAMBLAís policies, was encouraged to expand that to denying them admission to the international march on the UN in June. **The Men Against Rape Center** and **Lesbian and Gay Parents International** joined hands with **Veterans CARE** to issue statements and local groups and individuals from Fredericksburg, Virginia to Phoenix, Arizona and from Jacksonville, Florida to Seattle, Washington have sent endorsements. Articles and editorials have been spun off the original press release in dozens of Gay and Lesbian and mainstream newspapers and journals across America and, we are told, outside of the country.

There are those who have been concerned that when you start drawing lines separating people, where do you stop. Ground Zero believes that this is a question easily answered. You stop at that point between what consenting adults do with each other and what some adults do to children.

On this earth, **WE ARE ALL FAMILY**. We must all learn to live together and we must learn that our children are our future. We must never allow them to be hurt. We must protect them.

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Bits and Pieces...

Wanna Help??

Several members of GZ have expressed a desire to "help out" when needed. Below are some tasks we need help with during the month of March. If you have a few hours you can spare during the month of March, please give us a call at 635-6086. Thanks.....

Volunteers Needed in March

2 - Update GZ Library with articles for 4 hours
4 - To assist in mailings for 2 hours
2 - Sell GZ "stuff" at the two concerts for 2 hours
2 - Office work for 4 hours

GZ WISH LIST.....

The GZ office needs the following office supplies.....

PAPER CUTTER

The *Ground Zero Newsletter* is an authorized publication for members of Ground Zero. A condensed version is published for monthly distribution through friendly vendors to the general public. Contents of the *Ground Zero Newsletter* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the Board of Directors of Ground Zero. The editorial content is edited and prepared by the Newsletter staff/committee.

The Newsletter staff members are:
Sue R. - editor
Buffy H. - technical content/layout
Gail A. - distribution
Associate staff are members of the Networking Committee.

The *Ground Zero Newsletter* is published on the first day of each month. Submissions should be sent to P.O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. Deadline for submission is the 15th of month prior to the month of publication. All submissions will be edited to conform with accepted style book standards.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, Bishop's Commission on AIDS Ministry, is sponsoring a project called Book of Remembrance. Designed as an oversized book format it will become a unique hand-crafted work of art (a visual expression of love and hope) as well as a historical document of the times.
The purpose in establishing this document is to honor the dead and to insure that their names are preserved in the memory of succeeding generations.
This project is dedicated to the millions who have perished in the global epidemic of AIDS, and, to the living who bear witness to the suffering caused by this monumental plague.
The goal of the Commission is to reveal the names of the people that have been loved and to illustrate the enormous impact of the AIDS epidemic upon the environment of the planet.
Inclusion in the Book of Remembrance is available to all members of the human family who have died of AIDS, without qualification. There is absolutely no cost or obligation to include a name (s) in this memorial. It is an integral part of the social and liturgical life of the Episcopal community.
The commission will include anyone you wish in this memorial Book of Remembrance who may have died of causes due to HIV. You may send them to:

Attn.: Memorial Book
St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
7501 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles, Ca. 90046-2813

CONGRATULATIONS TO LA CARTA

The staff of the Ground Zero Newsletter would like to send their congratulations to La Carta's staff on a fine, colorful, informative, and well written newsletter. Keep up the good work.... Maybe one month we could collaborate!!

NAMBLA AND PEDOPHILIA-A MYTH UNDONE

GROUND ZERO recently grew weary of the lies and myths used against Gays and Lesbians as a campaign strategy by the radical right. Central to this campaign has been the inference that gays and lesbians have a special propensity for pedophilia and endorse the activities of groups like the North American Man/Boy Association.

Overwhelming evidence by reputable researchers and organizations has revealed child molestation and child abuse is predominantly a problem of the heterosexual community. (95%+). The only disagreement with this comes from highly biased organizations developed by the Radical Right for the purpose of designing statistics to meet their needs and from Dr. Paul Cameron, who has been largely criticized and held in disrepute by those of his profession as individuals and as organizations.

At no time does Ground Zero advocate that there are no incidence of perversion or pedophilia in the Gay and Lesbian Community. This is a problem that is societal-it affects all. Ground Zero does believe it is time that we face this problem head on as a united community-not divided by the lies and insinuations made by the right to create fear, hate and a base of power.

In answer to the charges themselves and that the Gay and Lesbian Community has done nothing to deny or denounce them, pedophilia and NAMBLA, it has been found that every Gay and Lesbian Organization contacted has indeed condemned support of or participation in pedophilic acts either by an individual or an organization. Included are official statements such as:

P-FLAG strongly condemns the sexual exploitation of children by any individual, group, or organization, in any form and under any circumstance. PFLAG opposed the inclusion of NAMBLA in any umbrella organization, coalition, event, or activity that is associated with the gay, lesbian, bisexual communities... (National office, PARENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS)

NAMBLA is not a gay organization. They are not a part of our community and we thoroughly reject their efforts to insinuate that pedophilia is an issue related to gay and lesbian civil rights. We categorically reject NAMBLA and its agenda. (National Human Rights Campaign Fund)

...This is not about inclusion or First Amendment rights. It is about a pedophile support group cloaking their mission in civil rights language. Exploitation of young people is deplorable regardless of the sexual orientation of the predator or the victim... (Log Cabin Republicans)

...we do not support or condone the sexual victimization of any people... Furthermore, we do not support or condone the activities or viewpoints of organizations that condone pedophilia. In addition, we encourage ILGA [International Lesbian and Gay Association] to disassociate itself from NAMBLA. (Stonewall 25, International March on the UN to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People)

As queer people, collectively and individually, we must find the courage to stand against NAMBLA. We must refuse them a seat at our table. And, if somehow we find them at the table, or in the march, or in coalition, we must be willing to throw them out. NAMBLA is not about queer liberation. NAMBLA is about the use and abuse of children. NAMBLA is about adult men who [molest] children. It is time to draw the line. You must stand against NAMBLA or you stand with them. There is no discussion here. No negotiation. (Personal statement issued by Donna Red Wing, National Coordinator for Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)

...the ILGA Secretariats Committee ... has written to NAMBLA refunding their 1993 dues and asking them to resign. If they do not resign by the end of the year the Committee proposes that they be expelled at the next ILGA World Body Conference...(Secretariats Committee, ILGA)

Additionally, Peri Jude Radecic, National Director, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, stated in a town meeting in Colorado Springs that she and the NGLTF condemn any and all who endorse, practice or support illegal acts against children.

Ground Zero has consistently stated that it is strongly opposed to child abuse and child molestation of all types and Ground Zero certainly condemns those who practice or support it in any way, whether individually or as a group. NAMBLA, an organization that has no more than several hundred members WORLDWIDE, obviously falls within this category and is, therefore, an organization that Ground Zero denounces and condemns. All Colorado GLB organizations contacted either endorsed outright this statement or already had on the books statements strongly condemning those who support, condone or accomplish victimization of children in any form, and specific, acts of pedophilia.

Donna Red Wing best summed up the near unanimous opinion of Gays and Lesbians nationwide and in Colorado:

"It is time we, as lesbians, gay men and bisexual people, begin to confront the reality of child sexual assault. We must challenge our community, and the community at large, to begin to create a safer world for our children. It is time that we, as queer people, challenge the rhetoric of the [radical]right and begin to replace the lie, that we are monsters, molesters and predators, with a commitment to the rights of children. That commitment must be matched with dollars and volunteer hours, with an advocacy for primary prevention programming and with a resolve to up the ante for those who would violate children. We must work towards treatment for survivors and for young offenders. We must be willing to 'throw the book' at repeat offenders. We must be willing, as a society, to name our fathers and our brothers and our uncles. We must be willing to believe and support our children."

It is hoped, without much conviction, that this will put to an end the speculation as to the overwhelming position of the Gay and Lesbian Community and to the massive campaign of lies and misrepresentations made by the Radical Right. However, since it is difficult to imagine that the leadership of the Radical Right has not always known the truth, it is hard to truly expect them to stop the lies.

WELCOME TO THE SPRINGS

REV. NORI ROST INSTALLED

A broad cross section of the Gay and Lesbian Community, bolstered by a strong showing of GLBT supporters, attended the installment ceremony for the Rev. Nori Rost at the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Church on February 13. The Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Founder and Moderator of the United Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches (100,000 strong worldwide), officiated at the ceremony.

Enjoyable trumpet and piano renditions were delivered by Tom Wilson and David Corder. Guest entertainers, "Encounter", journeyed from Rev. Rost's last church, MCC Long Beach, and delivered enthusiastic and well received renditions of some favorite hymns. Their only regret, that Colorado Springs had stolen their Nori from them. The MCC Choir rounded out the evening with musical offerings to their new minister and the mission of the church.

Ever exuberant and showing very much his Pentecostal upbringing, Rev. Perry sounded a greeting to GROUND ZERO and then he proceeded to take the congregation on a walk through his life and experience with the church with one anecdote after another. Often funny, often impassioned, no thoughts in the congregation strayed from his compelling delivery.

Rev. Perry's most enthusiastic comments were reserved for the Rev. Rost, whom he characterized as a dynamo that would bring a new spark to the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Church. He revealed that this was not the only choice that Rev. Rost had been given, nor was it the most financially rewarding. It was seen by her, however, as the mission God had chosen for her.

Christian and non-Christian alike left the service happy that the emptiness of the Church since it lost its last minister had been filled and that once again the community is complete.

Ground Zero had many representatives at the service, as did most organizations in the community. They left with the distinct impression that we would be hearing much from Rev. Rost in the future. Best Wishes, Nori, for a rewarding ministry.

GROUND ZERO HOSTS "NEW FACES FOR JUSTICE" MEETING

A dozen or more Gay and Lesbian organizations from across the state gathered in Colorado Springs on Saturday, January 30 to explore avenues by which these groups could develop greater communications, information sharing and mutual assistance. The gathering was interesting in the fact that it represented all spectrums of said organizations from the most activist to the most mainstream.

Generally, it was felt that we could all learn much by communicating with each other. Mainstream groups, aware of an activist action in advance, could be prepared with thoughtful responses to said action rather than becoming aware of it only when the press has called. It is, after all, the ultimate goal of actions to bring attention to some area and to educate in that area. Mainstream groups can help achieve this goal.

At the same time, it was felt that with conversation both sides could understand the other and be less likely to publicly attack or condemn actions, or non-actions, of the other. We must learn to work more together for our common goals.

Significantly, all groups agreed that we must begin to interact if we are ever to accomplish these common goals. The most significant result of the meeting was the enthusiasm to get on with the tasks at hand as a community united in purpose and direction.

More meetings are planned in the future on a regular schedule and it is hoped that specific steps will be developed to achieve that which we all agreed needed to be done.

Do you know of someone that we should "Welcome" to the Springs? Please call the office with the information.

BUILDING COALITION

NEWS RELEASE from the

GAY AND LESBIAN VICTORY FUND

Washington, DC - February 15, 1994 Leaders of national lesbian and gay organization heralded President Bill Clinton's strong statement against the anti-gay initiatives occurring in 11 states around the country. The President said, *"I am committed to the fight for equality for all American."*

Clinton responded to a request from gay and lesbian groups with a strongly worded statement lending his support to defeat anti-gay initiative campaigns fueled by the Far Right. Campaigns are already underway to compromise or eliminate gay rights gains in Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington.

The President made it clear that he was on the side of the gay groups: *"All people in our society must enjoy the opportunity to be judged on their own merits. Sadly... this simple principle of justice has come under assault in several states this year. Those who would legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other grounds are gravely mistaken about the values that make our nation strong. The essential right to equality must not be denied by the ballot initiative or otherwise."*

The President's support was delivered in the form of a letter to William Waybourn, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, who wrote him on behalf of the Bigotry Fund, The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the national Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Waybourn implored the President to support the campaign. "We need your help. There are now at least 11 states considering ballot measures that would either prohibit recognition of lesbian and gay rights or legislate discrimination against us. Our basic rights are under attack in these states, and more ballot measures will be added if we don't act quickly", he said.

"Mr. President", he said, "we respectfully request your participation to help us keep human rights from being decided at the ballot box; otherwise, we will lose not only our dignity, but our ability to participate as full citizens in this country." Waybourn continues, "Mr. President, we are not talking about 'special rights'. These initiatives would deny us our basic rights."

The president commended the broad-based coalition of leaders from the religious communities, labor unions, environmental groups, gay and lesbians organizations, women's groups, senior citizens, communities of color, Republicans and Democrats and many other groups who have united to oppose these ballot initiatives.

"You have demonstrated through your actions and your diverse membership that this is not an issue of 'special rights' for any one group. This is a battle to protect the human rights of every individual." Clinton said.

The letter was released in a national press conference held today (2/15/94) in Washington. In announcing the President's support, Waybourn said, "The President's backing brings a measure of hope to those who are fighting in the trenches every day to defeat these anti-gay measures. It will sustain them through this long battle. We are not alone", Waybourn said.

"Lesbians and gay men are victims of a holy war", he said. "We have been subjected to an epidemic of violence, hatred, bigotry, discrimination and prejudice. The radical right claims we seek 'special rights.' That is a lie. We seek equal rights. But as we attempt to gain the freedoms that every American is supposed to enjoy, we are marginalized as extremists, portrayed as radicals and discounted as militant activists", he said.

Waybourn said obtaining the President's support was crucial since the Victory Fund, which supports openly lesbian and gay candidates for public office, has candidates running for office in eight states where there are referendums scheduled.

"We are community that seeks inclusion, but finds intolerance, intolerance in Colorado, where the Far Right managed to pass Amendment 2.

Intolerance in Michigan, Missouri, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and other states where legislation is being considered that prohibits these states from enacting laws that recognize lesbian and gay men and legalize discrimination.

Intolerance in Tyler, Texas where a man was brutally beaten simply because he was a gay man. Intolerance in Ovett, Mississippi where lesbians seeking only to share the spirit of their lives are threatened and harassed every day", Waybourn said.

"We are tired of it. We shall be tolerant no more", he said. "Today, we're drawing a line-a 'front line' of defense. Last week the Victory Fund trained the first wave of state organizers to go into battle. We will fight for every neighborhood, every township, every city and county and every state... because that's where we live our lives. And this is just the beginning."

Waybourn said the Victory Fund trained at least three organizers from each of the 11 targeted states (Feb. 4 - 6) and gave them the tools and skills they needed to return to their communities and organize, mobilize and train others to manage campaigns against the initiatives.

"Some of our finest hours come when we're under attach", Waybourn said.

For more information about the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, contact Kathleen DeBold at (202) 842-8679.

REPORT ON

Part of the 1994 Ground Zero Campaign, WE ARE ALL FAMILY, is the formation of Community Support Teams. Community Support Teams are forming in a number of different areas, including watch committees to monitor governmental meetings and agencies by attending their meetings. Other areas of concern with support teams include education, health, labor, minority community, military concerns, anti-child-abuse, and child molestation. These committees are to be made up of persons who have community interests in these areas.

The concept of these teams is not to work on Gay and Lesbian issues but, rather, to demonstrate through visible participation that gays and lesbians are a part of the total community. Several Support Teams are already at work. Here are their reports:

WATCH SUPPORT TEAM

The Watch Support Team attended three meetings in its first week of existence; a city council meeting, a Human Relations Commission meeting and a sub-committee of the Human Relations Committee dealing with the development of a new Human Right Ordinance for Colorado Springs (there is no such animal in existence now. Is this really the nineties?)

The City Council Meeting was full of sound and fury on February 8. The first significant discussion, taking much time, was a discussion of where the city would spend its advertising revenue. Up to now revenue has been spent in two daily venues, the Gazette getting $120,000 last year and the other getting $30,000. The issue evolved around the possibility that advertising in weekly papers, such as the Independent and Springs, would be fair and save as much as $60,000 a year. The big loser would, of course, be the Gazette (maybe they have too much money already).

Council decided to go ahead with approving the rates supplied by the two papers now receiving advertising but to explore by the next meeting the other possibilities. Some question arose as to the state requirements in certain legal advertising having to be in daily papers.

An interesting side note. A representative of a new newspaper, the "Conservative Journal", spoke. They already publish in Pueblo and will soon publish in Colorado Springs. It would seem to the committee that they will have a great deal of competition considering the number of neighborhood and ad hoc conservative papers that exist plus the fact that the Gazette is for all intent and purpose a conservative journal. Perhaps this new journal will make a good bedfellow for COR, also soon to come to Colorado Springs.

This was the City Council Meeting where Lyda Hill's proposal for the Garden of the Gods was approved. A large credit for this approval goes to recognized Native American Groups, such as AIM, the Southern Uses and Lone Feather Council, who expressed support for the plan and relegated the claims by ad hoc opposition to the back burner. Cahuilla Red Elk, not known as a city ally, led the vocal support for the deal. One of her more interesting statements made to council was that, and I paraphrase, we have far more important things to consider, for example passage of a Human Rights Ordinance in Colorado Springs. AIM's security helped to quell a disturbance when a gentleman opposed to the Plan insisted that he was on his throne and that he was King James and that he should be called such. He proceeded to threaten Mayor Bob, something many of us may have wanted to do at one time or the other but have restrained our baser instincts. Oh well, it takes all kinds.

The Human Relations Commission meeting was very revealing. A city administrator, who shall remain anonymous, revealed to me that the commission focuses more on process than on trying to accomplish anything. This meeting certainly was indicative of that. To be fair, however, it was a meeting designed principally to adopt new by-laws.

One order of business was simply trying to find a place for a filing cabinet and small bookcase on which to keep Commission records. It is symptomatic of the view the city has of the importance of the Commission in the fact that the only place that could be found to keep these records was in an employees lounge. It is further symptomatic that this early piece of business evoked major attacks by a member of the commission on a city administrator who told the committee of the lack of space and by a fundamentalist member of the committee who attacked the first attacker for daring to attack the city administrator. Thus went the vast majority of the meeting.

Considerable time was spent by several factions seeking to impose their definition of a quorum. Significantly, three of the four definitions had exactly the same result and the fourth, the only one that was effectively different, was not even in the running. □ The argument: a quorum should be fifty percent plus one, of the active members; fifty percent, rounded down, plus one or an expressed scale, when figured out, came to exactly the result of the first two. The scale won after a long, long debate.

The only other significant fire of the meeting came when one member, the same that attacked the city administrator, pointed to what was considered the greatest accomplishment of the Commission, the development of the Human Rights Ordinance that the City Council later rejected, at the same time taking away what little authority the Commission had. The same fundamentalist that had earlier attacked him took, obviously, the very opposite view, stating that it was the worst thing that had ever happened. As a side note, the city administrator who had earlier been attacked informed me that the fundamentalist member was very much in favor of civil rights except for homosexuals. Big surprise.

Again, as clarification, the order of business for this meeting was simply approval of the by-laws so it could not be expected to be very exciting. It was, however, very enlightening in the fact that clear lines of factionalism could be seen that makes one question whether much progress will ever come out of this group. It is certainly difficult to see a Human Right Ordinance being approved to send to city council with or without the inclusion of HOMOSEXUALS.

On Friday, February 11, the Watch Team attended a Human Relations Commission committee meeting on the subject of introducing a new HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE. This meeting was chaired by Professor Alexander Soifer and had as guest officials of state and federal civil rights offices. This was mainly a meeting designed to inform the committee of the inter workings of varying levels where independent Human Relations Ordinances exist and to explore some of the technicalities of such inter working. It was interesting to find out that state civil rights complaints from the Colorado Springs area have doubled since 1991.

This meeting went without any significant animosity because it seemed only those truly interested in establishing a Human Rights Ordinance for Colorado Springs were present.

March 1994

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Diversity Chorus 7:00p	3 PPGLCC Bingo 7 pm 21st St. Bingo	4 Domestic Violence Conference	5 Domestic Violence Conference
6	7	8 GZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 7P	9 PFLAG call 575-8658 Romonovsky and Phillips 7:30p Fine Arts Center	10 PPGLCC Bingo 7 pm 21st St. Bingo	11 PPGLCC WILL CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF ITS NEW OFFICE 4 TO 12 P	12 St Patrick's Parade - Noon Old Colo City Gay and Lesbian AmericanSummit Denver
13	14	15 GZ FAMILY CAMPAIGN TASK FORCE 6P Newsletter Deadline	16 Diversity Chorus 7:00p	17 PPGLCC Bingo 7 pm 21st St. Bingo	18	19 Lucie Blue Tremblay 7:30p Fine Arts Center
20	21	22 GZ BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7P COLORADO COLLEGE	23 Diversity Chorus 7:00p	24 PPGLCC Bingo 7 pm 21st St. Bingo	25	26
27	28	29 GZ FAMILY CAMPAIGN TASK FORCE 6P	30 Diversity Chorus 7:00p	31 PPGLCC Bingo 7 pm 21st St. Bingo	? (april fools)	

Calendar Details...

MARCH 4 - 5 , FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, LOVE AND VIOLENCE: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, Domestic Violence Conference, Le Baron Hotel, 314 W. Bijou Street, Colorado Springs, Co. 80905. Keynote speaker, the Honorable Pamela L. Iles, J.D. Conference will focus on prevention of inter-generational violence and to provide networking opportunities for professionals concerned about domestic violence. For a complete list of workshops or for more information, contact the Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence at (719) 633-1462.

MARCH 9, WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM, ROMONOVSKY AND PHILLIPS, COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS MUSEUM THEATER The world's most known and respected Gay music and comedy team will appear on stage here in the Springs.
Tickets for this concert are $12 in advance and $13.50 at the door and includes a reception after the concert. They are available at Abaton Books and Ground Zero.

MARCH 12, SATURDAY, 10AM - 4PM, GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICAN SUMMIT, RAMADA INN on COLFAX AVE in DENVER A forum to discuss civil rights issues concerning gays and lesbians here in Colorado. Call 303-778-7900, Donnie Luehring or 719-520-5548, Jim Skinner for more information.

MARCH 12, SATURDAY, NOON, ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE , OLD COLORADO CITY. Ground Zero's Resident weather-woman predicts **Blue** skies to go with **Green** beer. Why don't you come out and supply the **Red, Orange, Yellow and Purple?** See how easy it is to construct a **Rainbow Flag?**

MARCH 19, SATURDAY, 7:30PM, LUCIE BLUE TREMBLAY, COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER THEATER will perform. Tickets for this concert are $12 and may be purchased at Abaton Books and Ticketmaster outlets.

Coming Next Month.....

APRIL 22, FRIDAY, 7PM, USC CAMPUS, PUEBLO. ONE-IN-TEN presents Colorado Springs Diversity Chorus as part of the Heritage Festival. The Concert is free and open to the public and will be held in the Life Sciences Auditorium. For more information, call 1-719-549-2990.

SUPPORT TEAMS

EDUCATION SUPPORT TEAM

The Education Support Team is off with a bang. It has been attending the organizational meetings for the proposed District 11 Charter School.

Charter Schools are allowed under a new state law that allow groups of parents, teachers and citizens to establish semi-autonomous schools within school districts to improve and offer alternatives to education if they meet certain criteria. A group of individuals, spearheaded by Luis Cortez, Ray Rodriguez and Rita Ague, formulated the plan to establish a charter school for at risk students. The plan is for the school to start up in September, 1994 and to be situated in the Garfield School Building. It would be for grades five through twelve and the first year it would enroll 200 students.

Organizations such as United Parents and Citizens for Child Justice have been greatly concerned with policies in District 11 such as "full inclusion", believing that such policies increase the risk of failure and harm for many emotionally, mentally and physically challenged students. It is also viewed that among disadvantaged minorities and the very poor are students who are at risk in the standardized public school setting. This school is designed to serve the needs of these students. It is the intention of the Charter School to set higher standards than those now required in District 11 and to "expect more" from its students, parents and teachers alike.

This support team finds much merit in this proposal and will keep you informed as it progresses.

ANTI-CHILD ABUSE/ CHILD MOLESTATION SUPPORT TEAM

This team is well on its way. Working with such groups as United Parents and Citizens for Child Justice, we have been educating ourselves to the problems that exist. We were also largely responsible for the national press release calling for Gay and Lesbian groups and organizations to denounce child abuse and pedophilia; to denounce organizations such as NAMBLA and to proactively seek to work to reduce the incidence of child abuse in society at large and to ameliorate the affects where such abuse has already occurred.

The press release, that garnered a great deal of attention nationwide, has encourage groups such as Stonewall 25, GLAAD and the NGLTF to look at their policies and formulate more proactive ones. Stonewall 25 decided last week to refuse NAMBLA a place in the international parade. They had previously denounced NAMBLA. We haven't seen the GLAAD and NGLTF statements yet but understand that they will similarly denounce NAMBLA. We have received dozens of communications from groups such as Veterans CARE (A GAY GROUP), LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS INTERNATIONAL, Men's ANTI-RAPE COALITION, A Fredericksburg, Va. Gay group, a gay Business group in Phoenix, individuals across the country, etc. all endorsing Ground Zeroís policy and joining with the ILGA Secretariat, P-FLAG National, The Log Cabin Republicans, HRCF and others who have said policies.

One of the more interesting things that has spun out of Ground Zeroís involvement has been the work we have been doing to promote and hold a statewide event in Denver to raise funds for Anti-Child Abuse organizations. We have joined a steering committee made up of representatives of THE GILL FOUNDATION, P-FLAG, OUTFRONT, EQUALITY COLORADO AND KNUS RADIO to produce the CHESHIRE BALL-Making Smiles for Our Children, a major fundraising event, probably in late April, with the hopes of raising between $50,0000 and $100,000 for programs to fight and ameliorate the effects of child abuse, including that at Children's Hospital in Denver and local groups in Colorado Springs like Citizens for Child Justice. All proceeds will go for this purpose. Ground Zero is particularly proud to have formulated the initial idea for the original proposal for this activity. Katherine Pease, Ground Zero President, is serving as its full-time director.

This team is hoping to produce other activities in the future, including the possibility of a major fund-raiser in the Springs in the fall in conjunction with United Parents and Citizens for Child Justice, among others.

MINORITY OUTREACH SUPPORT TEAM

The Minority Support Team has long been active, especially in the Minority Coalition. The Colorado Springs Minority Coalition is made up of a number of Social Justice and Civil Right Organizations and of individuals committed to its aim. The support team is represented at all of their meetings. Katherine Pease is on the Board and Frank from the office is secretary. Other Executive Committee Members include Altresa Williams, Chair and Board members Cahuilla Red Elk, Luis Cortez and Rita Ague.

Ground Zero is fully in support of Minority Coalition activities that include: Support of two claims of discrimination in hiring and employee practices; support of the Charter School; negotiations with KRDO TV involving elimination of perceived discriminatory employment practices; support of call for District 11 School Board Meeting to discuss problems with policies of inclusion; Support of United Parents in support of investigation into alleged child molestation in the Monument school incident and support of the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission in their claims that the Death Penalty is cruel and inhumane punishment that is meted out to ethnic minorities and the poor who are accused of capital offenses much more often than it is to white, economically better placed persons accused of the same crimes and that, in general, falls much more heavily on ethnic minorities and the poor.

The Colorado Springs Minority Coalition has strongly endorsed the concept that equal rights means equal rights for all citizens and is on record as supporting full inclusion in a local Human Rights Ordinance, including Sexual Orientation. The question that must be asked is "who will decide who next will be denied equal rights and full participation in our government and country once we have allowed any recognized group or individual to be denied?"

The Minority Outreach Support Team is also working closely with sister organization, LA GUIA, as it expands its services and base of operation throughout Southern Colorado. The Support Team believes strongly that English Only was at least as strong an attack on multi-culturalism as was Amendment 2 and that both are designed to promote mono-culturalism; one country, one god, one language, one culture, one religion. The support team will work to educate Ground Zeroís non-ethnic members to the importance of opposing English Only as strongly as they opposed Amendment 2.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OR FORMING A SUPPORT TEAM? CALL THE OFFICE–635-6086. We are ALL family.

News Releases from

MEDIA NOTICE FROM PEOPLE FOR A STRONGER COLORADO

(Columbus, Ohio) Colorado for Family Values has apparently violated the election laws of Ohio.

Throughout the 1993 election cycle, CFV raised money and contributed it to a Cincinnati group called Equal Rights, Not Special Rights (EE/SR) which was campaigning to pass a Cincinnati city ordinance similar to Colorado's Amendment 2.

There is nothing illegal about this kind of activity, unless you fail to report your financial activity to the Election Commission in Ohio (CFV did not make any such reports.)

Under Ohio law, any organization who raises money for any political campaign must file as a Political Action Committee (PAC). CFV has not filed as a PAC, nor have they ever made public their contributions and expenditures from 1993.

According to the election officials in Ohio, CFV had contributed over $390,000 to the Cincinnati group but never reported where that money came from.

A man named Joshua Thomas has filed a complaint with the Ohio Election Commission in Columbus. The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter Feb. 28 to determine if CFV must file as a PAC, and therefore disclose all financial information pertaining to the Cincinnati election. Another charge which may face CFV is laundering money for ER/SR. The general belief by those involved with this case is that several Ohioans sent money to CFV for the sole purpose of trying to keep their contributions secret (which is yet another violation in Ohio).

If found in violation of the election laws, CFV could face fines up to $10,000.

One interesting note to this story is that CFV has bragged about being a resource for many of the states which are facing Amendment 2 clones. If they are found to be a PAC in Ohio, it is highly likely they will also be in trouble in several other states.

For more information, contact Daniel Brewer-Ward (303) 355-7530

Breaking laws, cover-ups, money laundering.... How about them Family Values?

CFV REPORT

FOLLOW-UP ON COR by FRANK MOSHER

Last month we mentioned the imminent arrival of COR - The Coalition on Revival - and promised more information. This is another fanatical, right-wring group from California (Sunnyvale). At least COR admits its goal is to establish a government enforced Christian nation. As with the vast majority of these groups, religion is a means to the end of political power; they realize that using religion is the way to their political and financial success.

Founded in 1982 by "Dr." Jay Grimstead, COR advocates a "Reconstructionist" manifesto. Reconstructionists believe that it is a necessary to build a "kingdom of God here on earth". COR's goal is to mobilize conservative religious groups into an untied army to do just that. Essentially what this would accomplish is a Christian version of Iran with the Bible as the basis for all laws. America would become a Christian theocracy.

The extremists of the Reconstructionist movement oppose democracy, and advocate the death penalty for homosexuals, adulterers, blasphemers, astrologers, witches, teachers of false doctrine, and incorrigible children. Often the preferred method of death is stoning since that is so popular in the Bible.

COR leaders must sign "commitment sheets" that require that one must "be willing to be martyred for Jesus Christ" and must be "willing to submit to the hierarchical order that God has created in which we are willing to submit as to Christ to employers, civil government, church leaders, and within families wives to their husbands and children to their parents". Notice what constitutes "family" and where women and children are placed in their "hierarchy".

To accomplish their theocracy COR's National Newsletter of Dec., 1991, describes in detail how groups could "take their city for Christ". In his letter of June 15, 1993, to his "faithful donors" which announces his intention to move to Colorado Springs, Grimstead said, "the possibilities and potential are enormous. Also, the thought of my being able to function in the work of reformation and rebuilding the civilization upon the Bible with a team of like-minded, fellow reformers who are sold out to King Jesus is positively exciting to me." Guess whose city is being "taken for Christ"?. Actually, it may be that the majority of our citizens are just being taken by the fanatical right – Christ has nothing to do with it. And I wonder who the "like-minded reformers" in Colorado Springs might be.

"Dr." Jay will also be setting up a training camp for "like-minded" fanatics called Kingdom College. One can only imagine what one could major in here! Will we be seeing guest professors from Hexbollah? Too bad it didn't get started sooner, Jim Jones and David Koresh could have made great faculty members. But never fear, no doubt there are any number of "like-minded" brethren willing to step into their shoes.

Our Friends

NEWS FROM SIMPLE JUSTICE

In view of the fact that 1994 is an election year with several key races about to take place in our state, Simple Justice encourages you to take an active role in a political process that will begin with the Democrat and Republican caucuses on April 5th. You must be registered as a Democrat or a Republican in order to participate in that party's caucus. Participating in a caucus is important because this is where party nominations are made and where delegates to the county and state assemblies/conventions are selected. If you don't know what precinct you are in and/or where the caucus will be taking place in your precinct call the Democratic Party at 473-8712 or the Republican Party at 578-0022 to obtain that information. Just for your information, the Democratic Party will be holding its county assembly on Saturday, April 23 at Mitchell High School and the Republican Party's will be held on Saturday, April 30 (location not yet confirmed); the state convention for both parties will be held in Denver on June 3 and 4. By becoming involved in this process, whether you go all the way to the state convention or not, you will be adding your important voice to this state's political scene. And, of course, it is Simple Justice's hope that you will be able to discern which nominee or candidate may be a positive or a negative (or maybe nothing) to the G/L/B/T community.

If you would like to obtain more information about the political scene in Colorado concerning gay and lesbian issues and/or you would like information on what Simple Justice is all about, please feel free to call Marian at 632-9775 (evenings or weekends) or Mike at 528-6920.

Ground Zero Acknowledges The Support of the following:

THE CHINOOK FUND
THE COLIN HIGGINS FOUNDATION
THE FREEDOM FUND
THE GILL FOUNDATION

Where would we be without you???

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICANS

On March 12th Gay and Lesbian Americans will hold a Colorado Summit to discuss civil rights issues concerning gays and lesbians here in Colorado.. Topics to be discussed include the state civil rights bill, a protection act for gay teens, AIDS, and legalized marriage for homosexuals.

From this Summit will come the 1994 platform for the Gay and Lesbian Americans Colorado Chapter. The Summit will take place at the Ramada Inn on Colfax Ave. in Denver from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Although we are asking a $3 donation to cover the cost of this summit, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

We encourage all those interested in choosing the Colorado agenda to join us. Please call and let us know that you'll be there.

In Northern Colorado, contact Donnie Luehring @ Outfront, 303-778-7900

In Southern Colorado, contact Jim Skinner @ 719-520-5548

or write to us at :

Gay and Lesbian Americans
c/o OUTFRONT
244 Washington Street
Denver, Co. 80203

Gay and Lesbian Americans is a diverse, non-partisan coalition of grass-roots advocates committed to civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and to a cure for AIDS.

Please send your groups News Releases to the Ground Zero office for next month's Newsletter

making smiles for our children

The Crystal Ball

Letter to Editor The Gazette Telegraph by Frank Whitworth January 4, 1994

Often, those on the right attempt to excite hate and fear with buzz words like Agenda and, even worse, "Hidden Agenda." In his letter of January 3 (GT), Mark Hartwig takes Terry Schleder to task for not revealing her true agenda or, rather, for hiding it.

He then proceeds to attack a concept known as domestic partnership, a concept neither hidden nor nefarious. It is interesting that many right wingers use such devices as the hate video the GAY AGENDA to attack gays and lesbians for being ìpromiscuousî while on the other hand they attack gays and lesbians who are in stable and meaningful monogamous relationships (as most are) by attacking benefits that would encourage these relationships and that, in fact, are deserved under equal protection laws.

Domestic partnership provisions do not just apply to gays and lesbians but also to heterosexual partners who are not married and, I am told, to long-term, non-sexual relationships, involving roommates who have become entwined economically and who are mutually supportive. In Austin, Texas, where there are Domestic Partnership Ordinances, the overwhelming number of those taking advantage are heterosexuals.

It may interest you to know, Mr. Hartwig, that Gays and Lesbians pay the same taxes, pay the same interest, pay the same rent, buy the same products for the same prices, do the same work for the same pay, and contribute an equal share to the communities they are in. Why should they not have equal consideration involving such things as insurance and by the government in regard inheritance taxes, etc. This is not pushing some way of life-its only fair, equal and just application of those factors that already exist for society in general-with the exception of Gays and Lesbians.

If gays and lesbians who have entered into meaningful "life partnerships" are to be denied equality in these areas, then, perhaps, they should be exempted from paying taxes, etc. If you want to eliminate them from equal participation in government and the benefits of citizenship, then they should not have to pay to support the government to which they are denied access and which ignores their rights.

(This letter was printed in the Gazette in mid-January. Ground Zero has received much favorable response to it not just from people in the Springs but also from other parts of the country.)

HOW WELL DID YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

So how many Biblical prohibitions were violated?

Well, wives must be "submissive" to their husbands (I Peter 3:1). All women are forbidden to teach men (I Timothy 2:12), wear gold or pearls (I Timothy 2:9) or dress in clothing that "pertains to a man" (Deuteronomy 22:5). Shellfish and pork are definitely out (Leviticus 11:7,10) as are usury (Deuteronomy 23:19), shaving (Leviticus 19:27) and clothes or more than one fabric (Leviticus 19:19). And since the Bible rarely recognizes divorce, they're committing adultery, which carries the rather harsh penalty of death by stoning (Deuteronomy 22:22). So how well did you do?

Continuation of Deb Price's column from the San Francisco Examiner..... So why is the couple having such a good time? Probably because they wouldn't think of worrying about rules that seem absurd, anachronistic or - at best - unrealistic. Yet this same modern-day couple easily could be among the millions of people who never hesitate to lean on the Bible to justify their own anti-gay attitudes.

Bible verses have long been used selectively to support many kinds of discrimination. Somewhere along the way, Jesus' second-greatest commandment gets lost: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Once a given form of prejudice falls out of favor with society, so do the verses that had seemed to condone it. It's unimaginable today, for example, that anyone would use the Bible to try to justify slavery. Yet when the abolitionist movement began to gain momentum in the early 19th century, many Southern ministers defended the owning of human beings as a divinely approved system: "Slave, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters..." (Colossians 3:22)□In an influential anti-abolitionist essay, South Carolina Baptist leader Richard Furman declared in 1822 that "the right of holding slaves is clearly established in the Holy Scriptures." Meanwhile, Anti-slavery crusaders were taking an interpretative approach to the Bible since a literal reading "gave little or no support to an abolitionist position", author Carl Degler says in "Place Over Time: The Continuity of Southern Distinctiveness"..

Nearly 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, a Virginia court defended racial segregation by saying, "The Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, Malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents.... He did not intend for the races to mix." The U.S. Supreme Court rejected that reasoning in 1967 when it struck down laws in 16 states forbidding interracial marriage.

Like advocates of racial equality, suffragists found the literal reading of the Bible was their biggest stumbling block. Many ministers even condemned using anesthesia during labor because paid in childbirth was punishment for Eve's bite of forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:16). Susan B. Anthony eventually declared in frustration: "I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do, because I notice it always coincides with their own desires."

Studying the Bible is often akin to looking at Rohrschach ink blots, says Biblical scholar Joe Barnhart, author of "The Southern Baptist Holy War".. "What we get out of it is sometimes what we put in", he explains. The punishment the Bible metes out to all men for Adam's downfall is toiling 'in the sweat of your face" (Genesis 3:19). Yet, Barnhart notes with a laugh, there's one bit of progress never denounced by preachers hot under the clerical collar: air-conditioning.

TWO CONCERTS PLANNED TO BENEFIT GROUND ZERO ACTIVITIES

The world's most known and respected Gay music and comedy team, **Romonovsky and Phillips**, will appear on stage in Colorado Springs at **7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 9 in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Museum Theater**. Following the event, they will join attendees in a reception in the theater ante-chamber, where they will chat and sign autographs.
Self described as professional homosexuals, Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips bring to the stage a remarkable presence that has attracted the attention of performers and reviewers around the world, including Pete Seeger, The Chicago Tribune, the LA Times, the Sydney Morning Herald, The Advocate, The Lesbian News and the Houston Post, all of whom and more, have raved about their performances, pointing to their ability to sing and talk about their life experiences in a poignant and humorous manner that interconnects with gays and straights alike.
Said the 'Houston Post': *After years of hearing the straight party line in songs about love and life, it's refreshing to hear a pair of gay men sing about their lives. Romonovsky and Phillips are intelligent, witty and stylish performers.*
and the 'Los Angeles Lesbian News': *Romanovsky and Phillips will turn the head and heart of even the most staunch separatist definite breath of fresh air from the male side of the world.*

Tickets for Romanovsky and Phillips are $12 in advance and $13.50 at the door and include the reception after the concert. They are available at Abaton Books and Ground Zero.

Appearing on **Saturday, March 19, also in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theater at 7:30 PM will be Lucie Blue Tremblay**. Brought to you jointly by Mavin Productions and Ground Zero, Lucie Blue is an exciting addition to a month already made exciting by the appearance of Romanovsky and Phillips. Lucie Blue Tremblay has been making magic since she first burst on the music scene in Canada in 1984. She uses the power of her romantic balladry, the charm of her very personal, self-accompanied performance, and her passion for her bilingual heritage to weave a spell. She is a powerful truth-teller whose gift is to share her own honest human experience through her music. Her current tour of the U. S. is in celebration of her third album, "Transformations."
Lucie Blue has appeared in concerts worldwide, from Carnegie Hall to the Worldís Fair in Spain and with such fellow performers as James Taylor and Randy Newman.

Tickets for Lucie Blue Tremblay are $12.00 and may be purchased at Abaton Books and Ticketmaster outlets.

Think your friends might be missing something? They Are! Why not share this copy of the Ground Zero Newsletter with your friends, and let them fill out the membership form below to start receiving ALL the Ground Zero information, ALL the time.

Yes, I want to join Ground Zero in its fight against "2". Enclosed is $_____.
($20.00 is suggested, however if you can afford more it would be very appreciated. With a $20.00 or more membership you will receive GZ's monthly newsletter full of information.

Please, mark one of the following:
_____ Enter my name on your membership list.
_____ Accept this donation but do not place my name on your rolls at this time.

Name _____
Address _____
_____
(very important) Zip_____

Telephone # _____ (By including your phone #, you will be added to GZ's phone tree.)

Thank you for your donation and support!

Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission Annual Speaker's Forum

"Witness to the Execution"

an evening with

Helen Prejean, CSJ

Chairperson of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the founder of an advocacy group for murder victims' families in Louisiana

Saturday, March 12
7:00 PM
St. Mary's Cathedral
22 W. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs

Childcare will be provided

Helen Prejean is the author of *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* which is nominated for a Pulitzer Prize

The Commission's Annual Membership Meeting will take place at 6:00 PM in the basement of the church

For more info: call the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission- 632-6189

GROUND ZERO IS A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION IT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO EXIST

Turn To Page Eleven

FILL OUT THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND MAIL IT AT ONCE IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER!!

If you are a member and haven't remembered how much it costs us to operate your organization each day lately, perhaps you would like to . . . . . think of us now.

UNCOMMON GROUNDS

Open Every Day 8ish to 8ish
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(Yiddish for doodads)

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2609 W. Colorado Ave.
636-1360

Purveyors of Civilized Necessities

The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center
cordially invites you to join us in

"A Moveable Feast"

from 4:00 PM to about Midnight
Friday, March 18
in celebration of the
PPGL Community Center's New Downtown Office
in the Independence Building

4:00 PM
Open House at the PPGL Community Center Office
121 East Pikes Peak, #466
Wine and Cheese

6:00 PM
No-Host Dinner at Rosie's Restaurant
123 East Pikes Peak

8:00 PM
Harvey Fierstein's "Torchsong Trilogy"
and the short documentary "Escape From Exodus, An Unexpected Journey"
404 Crestridge in Southwest Colorado Spring (BYOB)

RSVP for reservations at Rosie's by calling the PPGL Community Center
471-4GAY (471-4429) by Wednesday, March 16

FLUSH RUSH!!

As I sat in the Ground Zero office trying to finalize an already late newsletter, one last bit of news crossed my desk that I felt compelled to report. Those people that gave us ANITA BRYANT in the Seventies, The Florida Orange Juice People, will now bring you RUSH LIMBAUGH. Great gobs of bigotry and hatemongering!!!

And Rush walks away with a cool million to further lend credence to their endorsement of his peculiar form of intolerance.

Across the nation, groups and individuals are calling for a symbolic "one week only" boycott of Florida Orange Juice from March 12 thru March 19. They even encourage that at the beginning of the week you FLUSH RUSH, also symbolically, by dumping your Florida OJ down the old porcelain throne and begin anew with products from elsewhere.

Ground Zero has not had the opportunity to take a stand before this newsletter goes to press. We suggest that each of our readers follow their own dictates.

----Frank Whitworth